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MEDIA ADVISORY

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San Diego Event Honors Renowned Judge

SAN DIEGO – Senior Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, a San Diego native and one of the nation's leading jurists, will receive the federal judiciary's most prestigious honor during a ceremony to be held October 19, beginning at 4 p.m. in the Spreckels Theater, 121 Broadway, San Diego.

Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the Supreme Court of the United States will be on hand to present Judge Wallace with the American Judicature Society's 2005 Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award. The award recognizes "significant contributions to the administration of justice, the advancement of the rule of law, and the improvement of society as a whole."

The event is free and open to the public. Media coverage is invited and still and video cameras will be allowed. San Diego civic leaders, members of the bar, state trial and appellate judges, and fellow federal judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court in San Diego, where Judge Wallace began his judicial career, are expected to attend along with the judge's family and many friends within the local community.

Judge Wallace has devoted more than 50 years to the law, most of them as a federal judge. He received his judicial commission as a U.S. district judge in San Diego in 1970. Elevated to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1972, Judge Wallace served for 24 years as an active judge on the nation's largest federal appellate court, the last five in an executive role as chief circuit judge. He took semi-retired "senior status" in 1996, but continues to hear appeals and fulfill other court duties.

Since 1972, Judge Wallace has been involved in the rule of law movement, which seeks to promote the concepts and ideals of an independent judiciary and impartial judicial system in developing countries around the world. To date, he has worked directly with judiciaries in more than 50 countries on every continent.

For more information about the award and presentation, please contact: Allen Haynie, (619) 236-1234, or John Owens, (619) 557-5629.

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